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CONSTITUTION
AND
BY-LAWS
OF THE
CANADIAN
PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION.



INSTITUTED IN KINGSTON, C.W.

A.D. 1854.

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PREAMBLE, &c.

THE "CANADIAN PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION," is formed by persons desiring, to the utmost of their power, to support and defend their liberties from the designs and intrigues of Popish mercenaries, as well as for the maintenance of the public peace and tranquility.

It is exclusively a *Protestant Association*, and the members pledge themselves, as far as in their power lies, by every lawful influence which they can exert, to preserve inviolate that most glorious privilege "*Liberty of Conscience*", and to protect all good citizens from violence, oppression and wrong.

QUALIFICATION for MEMBERSHIP.

Every Protestant should sincerely love and venerate his Almighty Maker—have a firm and steadfast faith in the Saviour of the world, convinced that He is the only Mediator between a sinful creature and an offended Creator.

He should be an enemy to savage brutality and unchristian cruelty. His disposition should be

forbearing and compassionate; his behavior kind and courteous. He should love rational and improving society, faithfully regard the Protestant Religion—the Religion of the Old and New Testament Scriptures, and sincerely hope to propagate its doctrines and precepts. He should have a hatred to cursing and swearing and taking the name of God in vain, and should use all opportunities of discouraging these shameful practices. *Wisdom* and *Prudence* should guide his actions, *Temperance* and *Sobriety*, *Honesty* and *Integrity* direct his conduct, and the *Honor* and *Glory* of his country should be the motives of his exertions.

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CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

The Association shall be known by the name of the "CANADIAN PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION."

ARTICLE II.—QUALIFICATION.

No person shall become a Member of this Association unless he is known to be a true Protestant, of a good moral character, and a loyal British subject.

ARTICLE III.—OFFICERS.

The Officers shall consist of a President, 1st Vice-President, 2d Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Usher, Tyler, and Chaplain, all of whom shall be elected by ball ballot every six months, viz: last regular meeting in March and September, and shall be inducted into office on the next meeting after election.

ARTICLE IV.—DUTY OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1ST.—It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings and enforce a due observance of the Constitution and By-Laws,

and to see that all the Officers perform their respective duties, and appoint all Committees and Officers not otherwise provided for, give the casting vote in all matters before the meeting when a tie shall occur, inspect and announce the result of all balloting and other votes, direct the R. S. to call Special Meetings when requested so to do by the Managing Committee, sign all orders on the Treasury when voted by the Association, and perform all other duties pertaining to his office.

SECTION 2D.—It shall be the duty of the 1st Vice-President to assist the P. in the discharge of his duty, and in the absence of the P. preside in his stead.

SECTION 3D.—It shall be the duty of the 2d Vice-President to assist the P. or 1st V. P. in the discharge of their duty when required, and in their absence preside over the meeting.

SECTION 4TH.—It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a fair and impartial record of the proceedings of the Association, write communications, notify members to attend meetings when requested so to do by the President or his representatives, attest to all monies ordered to be paid at a regular meeting and none other, and he shall make out at the end of his term a full report of all the proceedings of the Association during his term of office, and shall perform all other duties as may be required of him by the Association, and deliver up to his successor within one week from the expiration of his term, all Books, Papers, and other property in his possession belonging to his Office.

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SECTION 5TH.—The Assistant Recording Secretary shall be an aid to the R. S. and shall act under his direction, and in the absence of the R. S. perform his duty.

SECTION 6TH.—It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary to keep a just and true account between the Association and its members, credit the amounts paid, and pay the same immediately over to the T., taking his receipt. He shall, previous to the close of his term, notify every member who is in arrears. At the end of his term he shall make out for the Association a full report of all dues received by him during his term of office. He shall deliver up to his successor all matters appertaining to his office in his possession.

SECTION 7TH.—It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to pay all orders drawn on him by the P. attested by the R. S., and none other. He shall receive all monies of the Association and hold the same until the expiration of his term, unless otherwise directed by the Association, and deliver up all Monies, Books, Papers and other property of the Association within one week from the expiration of his term of office.

SECTION 8TH.—It shall be the duty of the Usher to examine and introduce all persons about to become members of the Association and take charge of all property not otherwise provided for.

SECTION 9TH.—It shall be the duty of the Tyler to take charge of the door, to keep off intruders, and after the meeting is regularly opened report to the V. P. the names of all persons wishing to

enter the meeting, and admit none without his authority.

SECTION 10TH.—It shall be the duty of the Chaplain to open and close all meetings by prayer.

ARTICLE V.—ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1ST.—No person shall be admitted a member of the Association under 18 years of age, nor for a less sum than 2s. 6d. Currency.

SECTION 2D.—The name of a person offered for membership must be proposed in writing, stating age, residence, and business, which must be entered upon record, and the subject referred to three members of the Association for investigation, who shall report in writing at a succeeding meeting, when the candidate shall be balloted for with ball ballots, and if not more than four black balls appear against him, he shall be declared elected; but if five or more black balls appear against him, he shall be rejected, and so declared. No person so rejected shall be proposed again under three months.

ARTICLE VI.—CONTRIBUTIONS.

The regular dues of this Association shall not be less than 1s. 3d. Currency per quarter.

ARTICLE VII.—OFFENCE.

SECTION 1ST.—Any member who shall violate

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the obligation he has taken at his admission into the Association, or knowingly violate its established principles or rules, or shall offend against these Articles or By-Laws, shall be subject to be fined, reprimanded, suspended or expelled, as two-thirds of the members present at any regular meeting may determine.

SECTION 2D.—Every member shall be entitled to a fair trial for any offence involving reprimand, suspension or expulsion; but no member shall be put on trial unless charges duly specifying his offence be submitted in writing by a member of the Association.

SECTION 3D.—When charges have been preferred against a member, they shall be referred to a Special Committee of five members, who shall, with as little delay as the case will admit, summon the parties, examine and determine the matter in question, and if their decision does not involve the suspension or expulsion of a member, and no appeal be taken from it to the Association, it shall be final without other action. Should the Committee be convinced of the necessity of suspending or expelling a member, they shall submit a motion for the purpose to the Association in writing.

SECTION 4TH.—When a motion for the expulsion or suspension of a member shall have been submitted in due form, it shall be announced at one regular meeting previous to action being taken, and the accused shall be summoned to be in attendance at the meeting when it may be determined to consider the question, at which time,

whether the implicated member be present or not, the Association may proceed to consider and determine it. Two-thirds of the members voting in favor of the motion, it shall be carried; but the Association shall be fully competent, while such motion is under consideration, to vary the penalty from the original motion.

SECTION 5TH.—When the decision of a Committee, appointed under Section 3 of this article, shall not be satisfactory to all parties, either of those interested shall have the privilege of an appeal to the Association, and at the time appointed for trying the appeal, the Committee shall present to the meeting in writing the grounds on which their decision was founded, and the parties shall have the privilege of being heard before the Association, when the members present shall determine the correctness of the decision.

SECTION 6TH.—Any member having been expelled shall not be proposed for membership at any future period.

ARTICLE VIII.—OFFICE.

No member shall be eligible for the office of P., 1st V. P., 2d V. P. or T. under 21 years of age.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1ST.—This Association shall meet on every Wednesday evening in each week, for the transaction of business. The hour of meeting shall be, from the 1st of April to the 1st of November inclusive, at eight o'clock; and from the 1st of November to the 1st of April inclusive, at half-past seven o'clock. The meeting shall be opened within fifteen minutes of the appointed time.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION 2D.—No nomination for office shall be received unless the brother nominated be present, or has signified his assent thereto in writing, and no brother shall be elected to office unless present on the night of election, and clear on the books, except in case of sickness or absence from the city.

ARTICLE III.

The P. on the night of his Installation shall appoint three members as a Committee of Finance, whose duty it shall be to audit the accounts of the S. and T. as to the receipts and disbursements of the money of the Association. They shall give to the Association on the next regular night of meet-

ing a full and fair statement of the Finances of the Association. They shall audit all accounts and bills, and endorse them, if found correct, previous to payment.

SECTION 2D.—That the officers of the Association form a Committee of Management.

ARTICLE IV.

SECTION 1ST.—No member shall take part in any discussion on the night of his initiation, unless by the special permission of the presiding officer.

SECTION 2D.—No member of the Association being more than six months in arrears shall be entitled to take part in any debate or vote on any subject or question.

ARTICLE V.

SECTION 1ST.—Any member who shall refuse or neglect to pay his dues and arrears for the space of twelve months, shall be notified by the F. S., and should his account remain unsettled for one month after such notification, he shall be suspended during the pleasure of the Association, and on subsequently being reinstated, he must pay the whole amount standing against him at the time of his suspension, together with the whole sum to which he would have been subject had he not been suspended.

SECTION 2D.—Any member who shall make use of profane or indecent language at any meeting, or refuse to obey the command of the Presiding Officer when called to order, or speak disre-

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spectfully to any of the Officers or Members of the Association, shall be subject to a fine for each offence, not exceeding One Dollar.

SECTION 3D.—Any member who shall be guilty of any disgraceful conduct in or out of the meeting, or who shall bring a charge against a brother which he is unable to prove, or shall knowingly propose for membership unworthy characters, shall be subject to fine, suspension, or expulsion, according to the enormity of the offence.

SECTION 4TH.—Any brother making known the name of a candidate who has been rejected, or divulging the name of a brother who may think it proper to vote or speak against a candidate, or make known the business of the Association, shall subject himself to fine, suspension, or expulsion, as the Association shall determine; and when a rejection takes place, this Section shall be read and a Committee of one appointed, whose duty it shall be to inform such person of his rejection, without disclosing any other circumstances or proceedings of the Association.

SECTION 5TH.—No smoking or refreshments, otherwise than cold water, shall be allowed in this Association at any meeting.

SECTION 6TH.—No member can retire without permission from the Vice-President.

SECTION 7TH.—That each member pay 7½d. each month.

SECTION 8TH.—That no brother give information to any brother who has absented himself for four regular nights of meeting: the question to be asked, How long have you been absent from the Association? If it be found that he be absent as above, no information to be given.

ARTICLE VI.

No part of these By-Laws shall be repealed, annulled or amended, unless a proposal in writing be presented to the Association at least one regular meeting previous to the discussion, when, if two-thirds of the members present vote in favor of the motion, it shall be adopted: nor shall they be suspended unless for special purposes, and then only by an unanimous vote of the Association.

RULES OF ORDER.

RULE 1ST.—The President having taken the Chair, the officers and members shall take their respective seats, and at the sound of the Gavel there shall be general silence.

RULE 2D.—The P. shall preserve order and pronounce the decision of the meeting on all subjects, and take no part in any debate without leaving the Chair. He shall decide questions of order without debate, subject to an appeal to the meeting by any three members, and on which appeal no member shall speak more than once when the question shall be, Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained? which question shall be taken by the V. P.

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RULE 3D.—During the reading of the Minutes, Communications or other papers, silence shall be observed in the meeting, and none shall be allowed to enter or retire.

RULE 4TH.—No member shall be interrupted while speaking, except it be to call him to order, or for the purpose of explanation.

RULE 5TH.—If a member, while speaking, be called to order, he shall, at the request of the Chair, take his seat until the question of order is determined, and, if permitted, may speak again.

RULE 6TH.—Each member when speaking shall be standing, respectfully address the Chair, confine himself to the question under debate, and avoid all personalities, indecorous or sarcastic language, and if two or more members rise to speak at the same time, the President shall decide which is entitled to the floor.

RULE 7TH.—No motion shall be subject to debate until it shall have been seconded and stated from the Chair. It shall be reduced to writing at the request of any two members.

RULE 8TH.—A motion to lay on the table shall be decided without debate.

RULE 9TH.—No motion for reconsideration shall be received unless made by a member who voted in the majority in the first instance.

RULE 10TH.—On the call of one-third of the members present, the yeas and nays shall be ordered.

RULE 11TH.—When a question is decided by yeas and nays, each member's name shall be recorded on the minutes.

RULE 12TH.—Any member knowingly violating any of the foregoing Rules shall be fined 1s. 3d. for the first offence, and for the second offence, expelled from the room for the evening.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Opening of Meeting.
2. Reading of Scripture and Prayer.
3. Calling of Roll of Officers.
4. Reading Minutes of last meeting.
5. Reports of Investigating Committees of Common Candidates.
6. Balloting for Candidates.
7. Initiation of Candidates.
8. Has any member any friends to propose?
9. Reports of Special Committees.
10. Reading Communications.
11. Bills presented for payment.
12. Has any brother divulged in violation of his Obligation, the private affairs of the Association?
13. Unfinished Business.
14. New Business.
15. Has any Brother anything to offer in defence or support of our principles?
16. Receipts of the Evening announced.
17. Closing of the Meeting.

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